

**MINUTES**  
GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING  
BOARDROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE,  
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC  
MONDAY, 2019-NOV-04, AT 1:00 P.M.

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Present: Councillor J. Turley, Chair  
Mayor L. Krog  
Councillor S. D. Armstrong  
Councillor D. Bonner  
Councillor T. Brown  
Councillor B. Geselbracht  
Councillor E. Hemmens  
Councillor Z. Maartman  
Councillor I. W. Thorpe

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer  
R. J. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture  
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services  
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works  
K. Fry, Fire Chief (arrived 1:04 p.m.)  
B. Corsan, Director, Community Development (arrived 1:31 p.m., vacated 2:49 p.m.)  
P. Rosen, Senior Manager Engineering (vacated 2:49 p.m.)  
F. Farrokhi, Manager, Communications  
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community & Cultural Planning (arrived 2:53 p.m.)  
J. Rose, Manager, Transportation (vacated 2:49 p.m.)  
D. Blackwood, Client Support Specialist (vacated 1:05 p.m.)  
S. Gurrie, City Clerk  
J. Vanderhoef, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting was called to order at 12:59 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Agenda Item 5(e)(1) Downtown Mobility Hub Project Update From Phase 1 – add presentation.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda, as amended, be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Monday, 2019-OCT-28 at 1:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

- a. Presentation from Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, and Joanne Schroeder, Vancouver Island University, Recreation and Tourism Program re: Recreation Prescription Project

Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, spoke regarding the following:

- Completed the first phase of the program and reviewing/publishing findings of the project
- Purpose to work with youth to find ways to engage youth at a younger age and encourage an active lifestyle and healthy eating habits
- The Recreation Prescription Project has been a collective partnership between the City of Nanaimo, School District 68, Vancouver Island University (VIU) and care providers who promote youth health and wellbeing
- Goal to build positive, collaborative networks that support health and wellbeing for youth, build the capacity of youth in the preteen period through purposeful engagement in recreation programs and to create sustainable relationships

K. Fry entered the Boardroom at 1:04 p.m.

D. Blackwood vacated the Boardroom at 1:05 p.m.

Joanne Schroeder, Vancouver Island University, Recreation and Tourism Program, spoke regarding the following:

- Program addresses issues of youth health and wellbeing within our community
- Intersectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration
- 3 schools were involved, including 120 students
- 16 weeks of recreation programming with 3 data points: pre, mid and post health assessments
- At 10 years old youth are at a complex development stage
- Goals of project embedded in the Canadian National Recreation framework
- Addressed 3 key items: social connectiveness, physical activity and mental health
- Priorities of project: active transportation, connection to nature, inclusion and access, access to good nutrition, digital detox of screen time
- 25 VIU students took part as mentors and emerging professionals
- Project made possible through the Island Health Wellness Grant
- Activities included 2 hours of programming within school time, including active play

- 82% of girls and 65% of boys eat one or more sugary drinks or candies per day, 35% of boys and 40% of girls live within a tobacco environment
- Kids are looking for safe spaces and access to activities
- Program included Fitbit challenges to encourage small changes
- Access and inclusion became a recognized issue and resulted in the Shed Your Threads program which provides recreation gear within the community
- \$20,000 has been secured through Vancouver Foundation to move into Second Phase to probe systemic issues and root causes of health and wellbeing in our community

Bobbie Deans, Nursing Student, VIU, provided a video presentation regarding nursing student's efforts within this program, and spoke regarding the following:

- Working with an intersectoral and interdisciplinary team to fight complex societal issues that are present today
- Nursing component of the team conducted a needs assessment and partnered with students to help them build capacity to make informed choices regarding their health and wellness
- Witnessed students ability to promote health using a primary prevention model or education/awareness model
- A primary prevention model can have a ripple effect on families and communities and potentially reduce burden and costs on the health care system
- Hopes that the Recreation Prescription Project will become a permanent fixture within the community

Alesha Coombs, Tourism and Recreation Grad, VIU, spoke regarding:

- Submitted grant application for the Recreation Prescription Project
- Program brought together 120 grade 4, 5 and 6 students, 25 VIU students in the health advocate team and brought together 4 VIU disciplines: Nursing, Sport Health and Physical Education, Child and Youth Care, and Recreation
- Became the Recreation Prescription Project Coordinator
- Interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach allowed for students to learn from a variety of fields all promoting youth health and wellbeing
- VIU students were involved in the following types of activities:
  - Walking to local parks
  - Swimming
  - Skating
  - Hiking
  - Sleep exercises
  - Learning about mental fitness
  - Creating easy and healthy cook books
- Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council and Canadian Parks and Recreation Association established the pathways to wellbeing and outlined 5 priorities for recreation in Canada which the Recreation Prescription Project embodies
- Recreation Prescription Project has the potential to create strong emerging leaders and strengthen developing relationships

Georgia Brennan, Recreation and Tourism student, VIU, spoke regarding:

- Her role as a Health Advocate in the program
- Intersectoral approach was influential to her education and career path

Joanne Schroeder, VIU, Recreation and Tourism Program, spoke regarding:

- Recreation being used as a prevention tool
- Moving forward into the convened stage

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Keeping this program running – need for leadership capacity building and continued collaboration
- Daily physical activity statistics refer to after school activity and does not include time during school
- Consider including other types of drugs in addition to tobacco
- Nanaimo youth results compared with the rest of BC

B. Corsan entered the Boardroom at 1:31 p.m.

b. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE:

(1) 2020 Governance and Priorities Key Date Calendar

Introduced by Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services.

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council adopt the 2020 Governance and Priorities Committee Key Date Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

c. COMMUNITY WELLNESS/LIVABILITY:

(1) Downtown Mobility Hub Project Update from Phase 1

Introduced by Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works.

Presentation:

1. Jamie Rose, Manager, Transportation, introduced Bernard Abelson, Project Engineer, McElhanney, and Jana Zelenski, Engagement Planner, Lanarc, who provided a presentation regarding the following:
  - Guidance from City of Nanaimo Transportation Master Plan – suggests prioritizing pedestrians, cyclists and transit before commercial vehicles and cars
  - Study Objectives Review – developing short-term project solutions, focused on cycling, traffic safety, transit and parking
  - Overview of engagement completed so far
  - Types of activities in round 1 of engagement and level of participation

- Common feedback received regarding pedestrian networks related to pedestrian safety, wayfinding and improving walkability
- Primary issues regarding pedestrian networks are around Front Street, Terminal Avenue and Nicol Street, and Commercial Street and Victoria Avenue
- Feedback received regarding bicycle network related to secure bike storage, signage, cyclist safety, connectivity and enforcement
- Generally there is support for the suggested bicycle network priorities with a strong interest in improvements to Front Street
- Feedback regarding transit focused on connectivity, public amenities, safety and accessibility and integrated design
- Some support for bus exchange on Front Street; however, some preference for closer to downtown
- Key intersections identified as priorities:
  - High Priorities: Albert Street/Wallace Street/Commercial Street and Victoria Crescent/Nicol Street/Esplanade Street
  - Moderate Priorities: Bastion Street/Wallace Street/Fraser Street and Front Street/Church Street
  - Lower Priority: Bastion Street/Commercial Street
  - Other Locations: Fitzwilliam Street, Terminal Avenue, Esplanade Avenue/Front Street and Comox Road
- Feedback received regarding parking related to the amount of parking, costs, wayfinding to parking and safety
- Engagement in round 2 – plans to summarize input, present options and preliminary recommendations, receive feedback
- Provided a schedule of targeted timelines for round 2 of engagement
- Listed some quick win opportunities:
  - Victoria Road/Wallace Street/Albert Street intersection improvement
  - Bastion Street/Commercial Street intersection signal is at the end of its life cycle and sidewalks are congested/narrow – suggested possibly changing to a 4 way stop control
- Suggested other project updates for intersections which didn't necessarily fit within quick wins:
  - Wallace Street/Fraser Street/Bastion Street intersection provides safety concerns and delays for pedestrians
  - Make Front Street/Church Street safer for pedestrians

S. Gurrie vacated the Boardroom at 2:04 p.m.

Richard Drdul, Drdul Community Transportation Planning, spoke regarding the following:

- Provided a map of short term cycling plan for downtown
- Front Street cycle track – providing a 2 way cycle track along water side of Front Street where there is a limited number of driveways crossing. Would reduce vehicle traffic lanes from 4 to 2 lanes and adjust parking locations

- Other proposed cycling improvements:
  - Albert Street – removing parking on south side of road to install protected bicycle lane, would require road widening
  - Wallace Street – install protected bike lane, lose capacity for 40 – 45 parked vehicles on Wallace Street
  - Pearson Bridge – take away one lane of vehicle traffic to accommodate a protected bike lane

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Access to Canada Service building for people with mobility issues
- Accessibility and impact on emergency services vehicles
- Cyclists accessing Pearson Bridge

S. Gurrie returned to the Boardroom at 2:16 p.m.

- Front Street bike lane being located on the east side of the road when businesses are primarily located on the west side
- Possibility of reducing the number of vehicle traffic lanes on Pearson Bridge
- Upgrades to Terminal Avenue/Nicol Street
- Traffic congestion
- Ensuring that plans reinforce the Nanaimo Transportation Master Plan
- Feasibility of 2 lanes of vehicle traffic if bike lanes are installed
- Increasing reference to pedestrian safety and not just cycling
- Directing traffic from Gabriola ferry terminal

Bernard Abelson, Project Engineer, McElhanney, continued his presentation regarding:

- Project updates for transit exchange – recommendation and community feedback supports Front Street location
- Benefit of real feedback with the temporary transit exchange on Front Street
- Parking Strategy looked at supply and demand, turnover, current restrictions and timeframes for usage of parking spaces
- Need to improve wayfinding to parking

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Engagement and educating/notifying the public about these projects
- Amount of parking available downtown and parking during events
- Transit Future Plan and design plans related to on-street transit design
- Location of bike storage sites in key locations downtown
- Safety concerns regarding transit exchange at Front Street

- Estimated need for vehicle parking downtown in the future
- Methods of managing demand for parking downtown
- Working with the Regional District of Nanaimo to ensure the transit exchange meets their needs
- Increasing safety at the current Front Street temporary transit exchange

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council approve siting an on-street Transit Exchange on Front Street adjacent 1 Port Drive, and direct Staff to proceed to Phase 2 of the project to:

- work with the Regional District of Nanaimo to prepare a design for an on-street Transit Exchange;
- complete designs for the Downtown and Albert Street bikeways;
- complete a review of the Downtown Road Network to seek opportunities to enhance connectivity;
- finalize the Parking Management Strategy; and,
- develop plans to optimize streetscapes and place making.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Corsan, J. Rose, P. Rosen, and B. Sims vacated the Boardroom at 2:49 p.m.

d. AGENDA PLANNING:

1. Governance and Priorities Committee Agenda Planning

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, provided updates/corrections to the Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) agenda schedule as follows:

- Public Safety topic is scheduled for November 25<sup>th</sup> and Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, will be presenting
- Potential Special GPC Meeting December 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss Fees and Charges
- Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia to speak on December 9<sup>th</sup>
- Arts and Culture topic is tentatively scheduled for January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, when the new Culture Manager should be able to attend and contribute.

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, spoke regarding a tentative schedule for January 2020 GPC meetings and suggested scheduling a Strategic Plan check-in meeting January 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Neighbourhood associations, how the City interacts with them, and implementing a policy on how associations are structured
- Coastal Community Social Procurement Initiative being invited to a Council or GPC meeting

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council invite a representative from the Coastal Community Social Procurement Initiative to make a presentation during the next available Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee discussion took place regarding expectations of neighbourhood associations.

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council schedule a Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting on the topic of engagement, with an update on different emerging issues, and a focus on neighbourhood associations. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Sims and L. Bhopalsingh entered the Boardroom at 2:53 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 3:00 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

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CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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CORPORATE OFFICER